

the Basics

- Commercial buildings use 36 percent of our electricity and produce 25 percent of our green house gases.
- Sustainable or "green" building is the practice of designing, constructing, operating and maintaining buildings that are highly energy- and resource- efficient.
- Governor Schwarzenegger's Green Building Initiative Executive Order directs California to lead by example in improving the energy and environmental performance of the facilities it owns, leases, retrofits or maintains.
- The Green Building Initiative calls for reducing electricity consumption in state buildings 20 percent by 2015.
- Reaching the 20 percent goal includes a combination of benchmarking the energy efficiency of state buildings, and commissioning or retro-commissioning facilities to ensure that energy systems are operated as efficiently as possible.
- California is embracing the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council in both new construction and existing buildings.
- Bottom line: Building Green saves energy, conserves precious natural resources, and reduces our impact on climate change.